

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3006

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April 2, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt,

We would like to express our deep appreciation for your work to invest in the infrastructure of America's health care safety net. Millions of Americans have lived longer and healthier lives due to your efforts. In order to continue that work with the goal of bringing care to all Americans in need, we respectfully request that you provide \$2.602 billion for the Health Centers program in the FY2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations legislation. The Health Care Safety Net Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-355), which was unanimously passed by Congress, authorized this funding level.

As you know, the Health Centers program is a community-run health care delivery system that is open to all regardless of their ability to pay. At a time when health care costs have dramatically increased across the country, health centers have kept their costs well under those of other health care providers. In addition, years of research have shown that health centers actually save the health system money, and that their patients have better outcomes and use hospital emergency rooms less than those who get their care in other settings. Simply put, the Health Centers program works and we wholeheartedly appreciate your continued efforts to expand this important program.

Thanks to the leadership of the Committee, health centers are now the health care home for more than 18 million Americans. And yet, there continues to be overwhelming demand for community health centers and the primary care services they provide in communities nationwide, with scores more high-quality applications for health centers than funding available. In order to truly serve those in need across the country, we must continue to support and expand existing health centers and develop new centers in areas of need. This FY2010 funding request is an investment in a longer-term plan envisioned by the Health Care Safety Net Act to provide care in a health center to 30 million Americans by 2015.

We hope to work with the Subcommittee to guide this investment around several priorities. First, a significant and strategic investment in existing health centers is needed

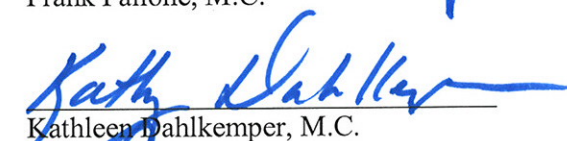
to help them meet the increasing demand for services in the communities they serve. Second, new and expanded health centers should be funded in communities with little or no access to care. Lastly, in order to make a comprehensive range of necessary services available at every health center, funding should be provided to integrate mental health, oral health, and pharmacy services in high need communities.

We know your subcommittee has a very difficult task ahead, but we strongly urge you to continue the health center expansion effort to communities in need by increasing federal funding for the Community Health Centers program to the authorized level of \$2.602 billion for FY2010. Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to working with you this year to continue to expand this important program.

Sincerely,

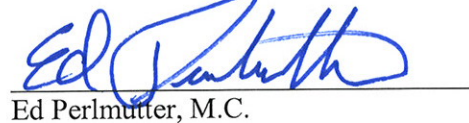

Frank Pallone, M.C.

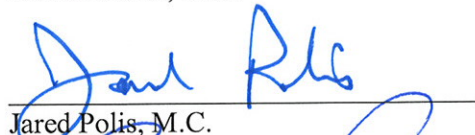

Gus Bilirakis, M.C.


Kathleen Dahlkemper, M.C.

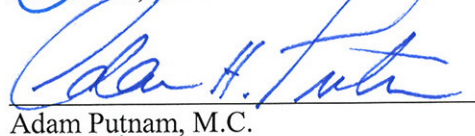

Christopher Carney, M.C.


Adrian Smith, M.C.

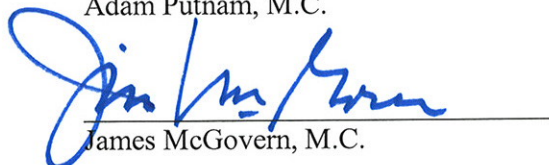

Ed Perlmutter, M.C.

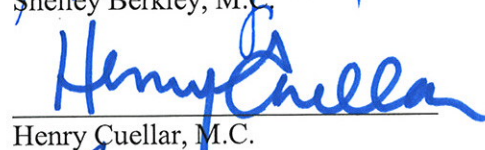

Jared Polis, M.C.


Ginny Brown-Waite, M.C.


Adam Putnam, M.C.

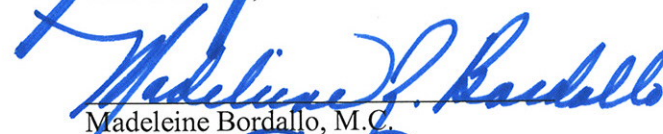

Shelley Berkley, M.C.

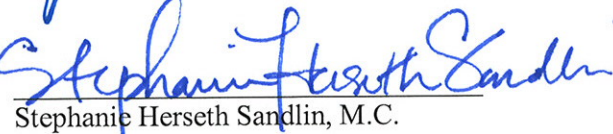

James McGovern, M.C.

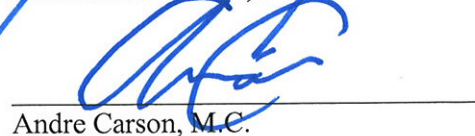

Henry Cuellar, M.C.

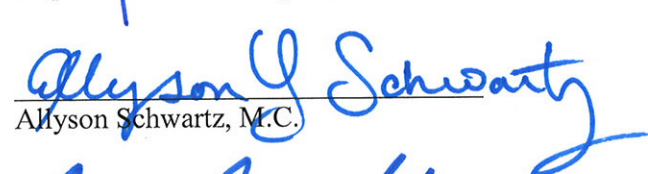

John Yarmuth, M.C.

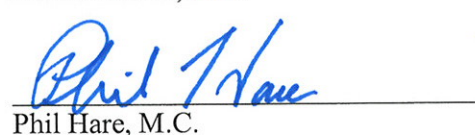

Jason Altmire, M.C.

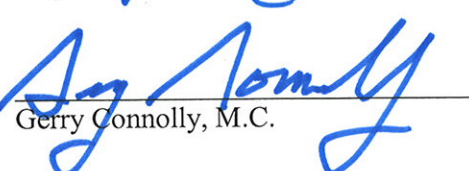

Madeleine Bordallo, M.C.


Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, M.C.



Andre Carson, M.C.

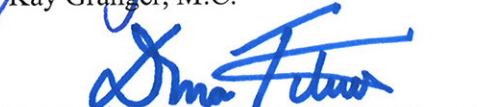

Allyson Schwartz, M.C.



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Ruben Hinojosa, M.C.



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 JL-19
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Tammy Baldwin, M.C.


Mike McIntyre, M.C.

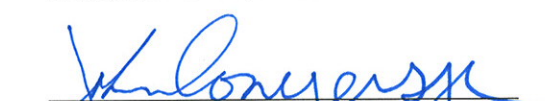

Mike Ross, M.C.



Jim Matheson, M.C.



Maurice Hinchey, M.C.



Sanford Bishop, M.C.


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Bobby Rush, M.C.

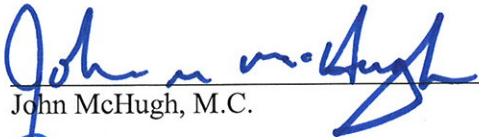

Ralph Hall, M.C.

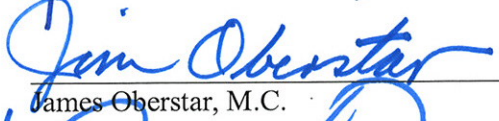

Adam Smith, M.C.


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Chris Smith, M.C.


Gene Green, M.C.

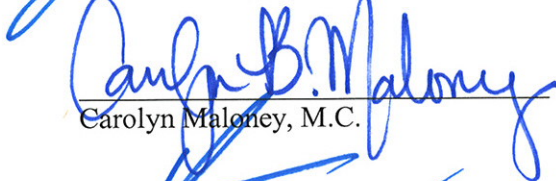

John McHugh, M.C.


James Oberstar, M.C.


Charles Rangel, M.C.


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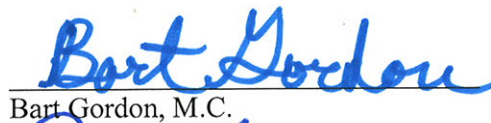

Jerrold Nadler, M.C.

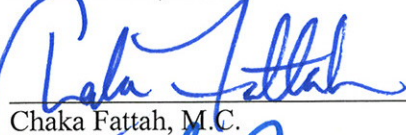

Carolyn Maloney, M.C.


Lee Terry, M.C.

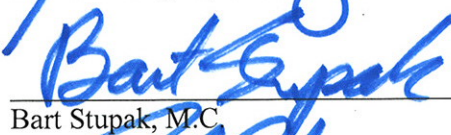

Mike Thompson, M.C.

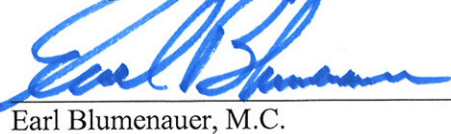

Nick Rahall, M.C.


Bart Gordon, M.C.


Chaka Fattah, M.C.


Michael Burgess, M.C.


Bart Stupak, M.C.


Earl Blumenauer, M.C.

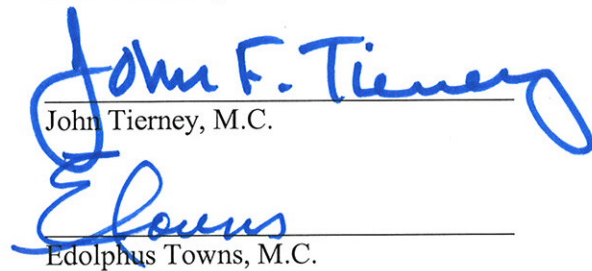

Luis Gutierrez, M.C.

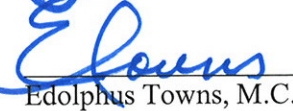

Lynn Woolsey, M.C.


Charlie Wilson, M.C.

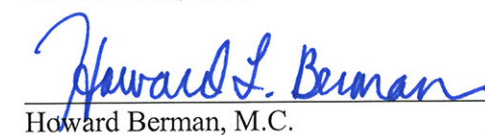

Brad Sherman, M.C.


Bob Goodlatte, M.C.



John Tierney, M.C.

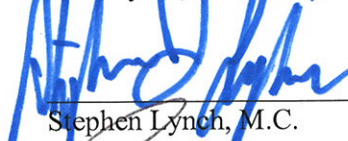

Edolphus Towns, M.C.

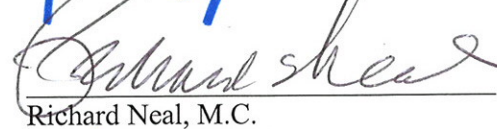

Mark Souder, M.C.


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Doris Matsui, M.C.


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Richard Neal, M.C.


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Vernon Ehlers, M.C.

David Price
David Price, M.C.

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Eliot Engel, M.C.

Danny K Davis
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Joe Courtney
Joseph Courtney, M.C.

Jim Himes
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton, M.C.

Pete DeFazio
Peter DeFazio, M.C.

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John Barrow, M.C.

Solomon Ortiz
Solomon Ortiz, M.C.

Edward J. Markey
Edward Markey, M.C.

Dale E. Kildee
Dale Kildee, M.C.

Anthony Weiner
Anthony Weiner, M.C.

Artur Davis
Artur Davis, M.C.

Robert Brady
Robert Brady, M.C.

Lloyd Doggett
Lloyd Doggett, M.C.

Gabrielle Giffords
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Dennis Moore
Dennis Moore, M.C.

Timothy Walz
Timothy Walz, M.C.

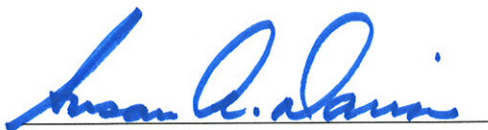
Betty Sutton
Betty Sutton, M.C.

Russ Carnahan
Russ Carnahan, M.C.

Chris Van Hollen
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Grace S. Napolitano
Grace Napolitano, M.C.

Bob Etheridge
Bob Etheridge, M.C.

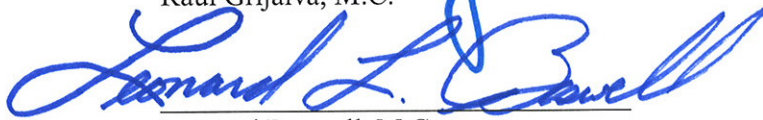

Susan Davis, M.C.


Mazie Hirono, M.C.

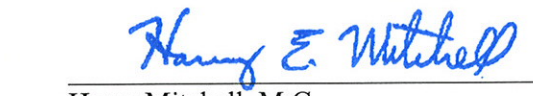

Marcia Fudge, M.C.

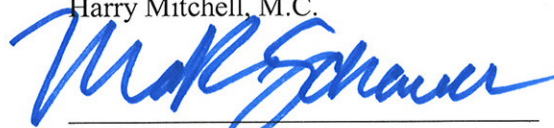

Neil Abercrombie, M.C.

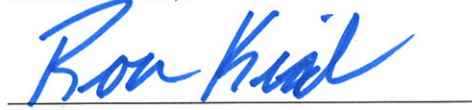

Raul Grijalva, M.C.


Leonard Boswell, M.C.

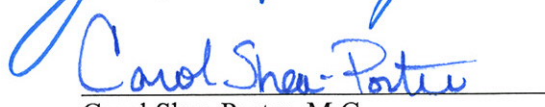

Michael Capuano, M.C.


Harry Mitchell, M.C.

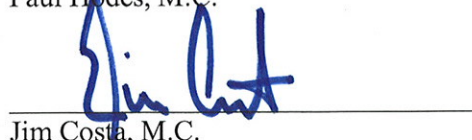

Mark Schauer, M.C.


Ron Kind, M.C.



John Spratt, M.C.

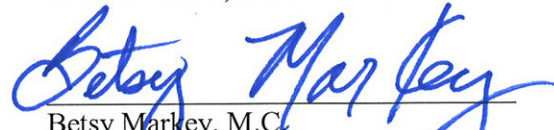

Carol Shea-Porter, M.C.

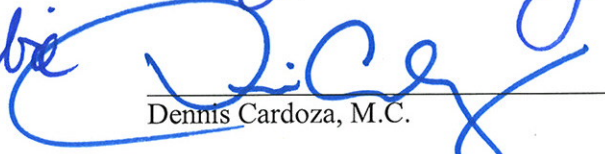

Paul Hodes, M.C.


Jim Costa, M.C.

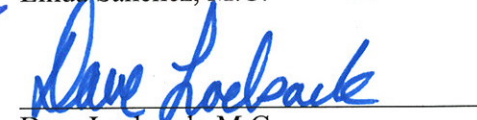

Gwen Moore, M.C.


Michael Castle, M.C.


Betsy Markey, M.C.

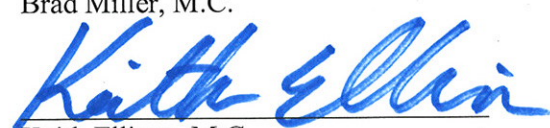

Dennis Cardoza, M.C.


Linda Sanchez, M.C.


Dave Loebsack, M.C.


Robert Scott, M.C.

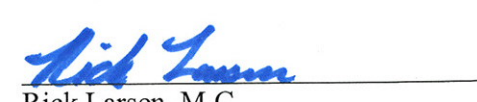

Brad Miller, M.C.

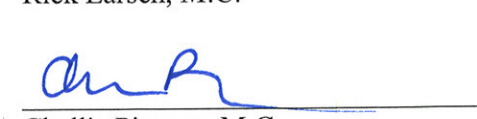

Keith Ellison, M.C.


Lois Capps, M.C.


Geoff Davis, M.C.


James Langevin, M.C.


Rick Larsen, M.C.


Chellie Pingree, M.C.



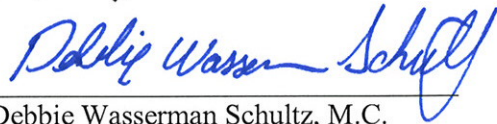
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Harry Teague, M.C.



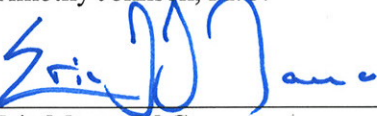
Gary Peters, M.C.



Debbie Wasserman Schultz, M.C.



Timothy Johnson, M.C.



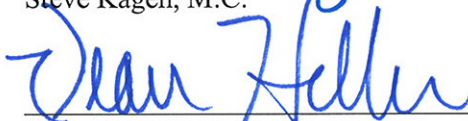
Eric Massa, M.C.



Rush Holt, M.C.



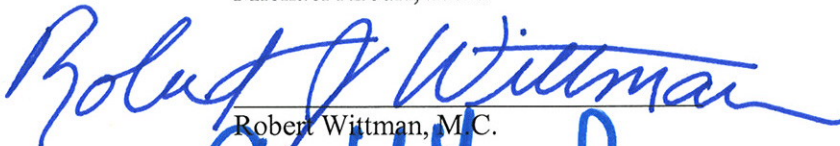
Steve Kagen, M.C.



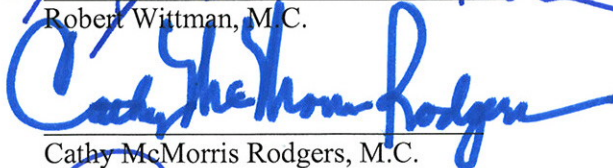
Dean Heller, M.C.



Michael Arcuri, M.C.



Robert Wittman, M.C.



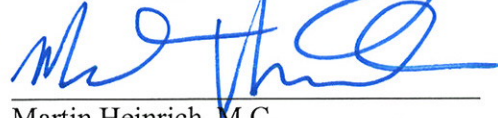
Cathy McMorris Rodgers, M.C.



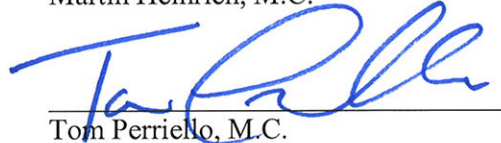
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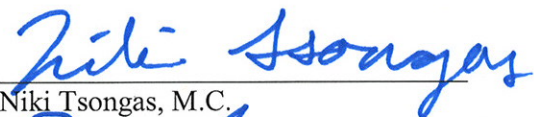
Earl Pomeroy, M.C.



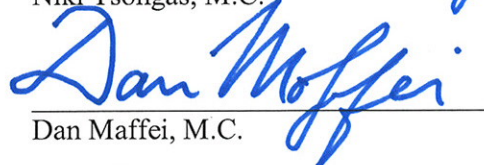
Martin Heinrich, M.C.



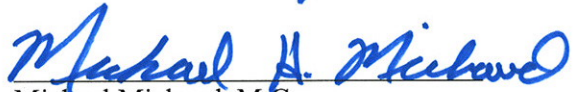
Tom Perriello, M.C.



Niki Tsongas, M.C.



Dan Maffei, M.C.



Michael Michaud, M.C.



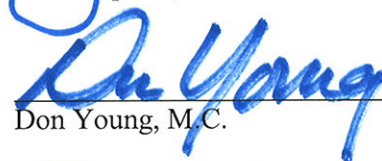
Dave Reichert, M.C.



Ron Paul, M.C.



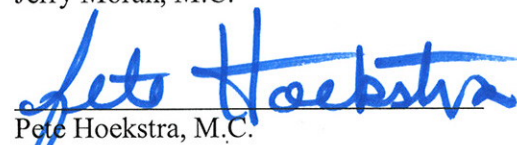
Jackie Speier, M.C.



Don Young, M.C.



Jerry Moran, M.C.




Pete Hoekstra, M.C.

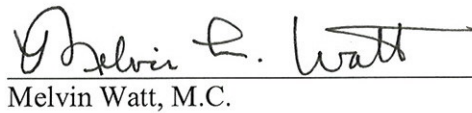


Elijah Cummings, M.C.

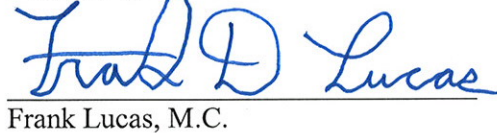

Joe Baca, M.C.


Barney Frank, M.C.


Robert Andrews, M.C.


Melvin Watt, M.C.


Donald Payne, M.C.


Frank Lucas, M.C.


Diana DeGette, M.C.

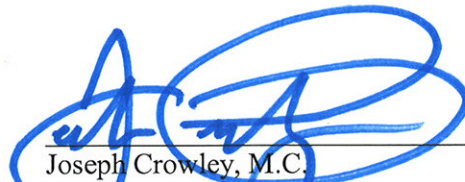

Maxine Waters, M.C.

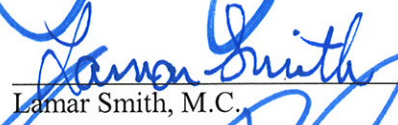

Alcee Hastings, M.C.

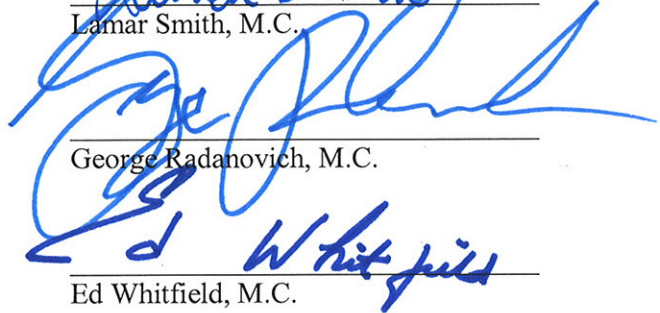

Al Green, M.C.

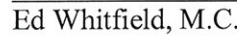

Jan Schakowsky, M.C.


Jane Harman, M.C.

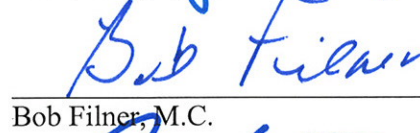

Joseph Crowley, M.C.

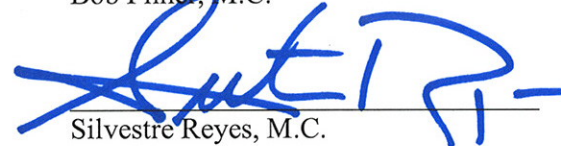

Lamar Smith, M.C.


George Radanovich, M.C.


Ed Whitfield, M.C.


Wally Herger, M.C.


Bob Filner, M.C.


Silvestre Reyes, M.C.


Dennis Kucinich, M.C.


Kevin Brady, M.C.


Kathy Castor, M.C.


Melissa Bean, M.C.


Mario Diaz-Balart, M.C.

Joe Barton

Joe Barton, M.C.

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay, M.C.

Lincoln Diaz-Balart

Lincoln Diaz-Balart, M.C.

Jay Inslee

Jay Inslee, M.C.

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson, M.C.

Hank Johnson

Hank Johnson, M.C.

Gerald McNerney

Gerald McNerney, M.C.

John Lewis

John Lewis, M.C.

Christopher Murphy

Christopher Murphy, M.C.

Brian Higgins

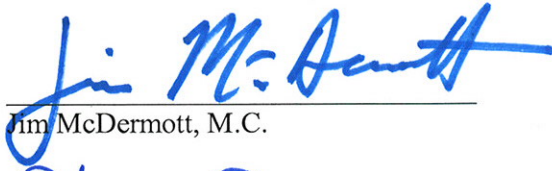
Brian Higgins, M.C.

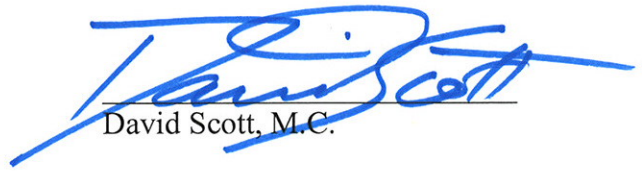
Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan, M.C.

Jim Marshall

Jim Marshall, M.C.

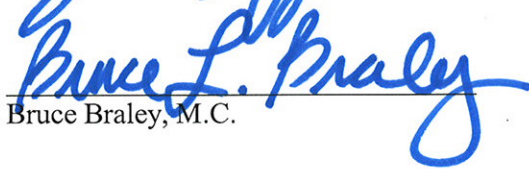

Jim McDermott, M.C.


David Scott, M.C.


Yvette Clarke, M.C.


Joe Sestak, M.C.


Zoe Lofgren, M.C.


Bruce Braley, M.C.